

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-66. (Cancelled)

Claim 67. (Currently Amended) A quality control material for use in a reagentless spectrophotometric apparatus, comprising, one or more substances that mimic one or more analytes in whole blood, serum, plasma, urine, synovial fluid or cerebrospinal fluid, wherein one or more analytes is selected from the group consisting of a simulator of turbidity, a perfluorocarbon-like blood substitute, bilirubin, an indicator of hemolysis, a Hb-based blood substitute, methylene blue, met-Hb and biliverdin .

Claim 68. (Cancelled)

Claim 69. (Original) The quality control material of claim 68, wherein said one or more analyte is an indicator of hemolysis in serum or plasma, wherein said indicator of hemolysis is one of total Hb, oxy-Hb or "total Hb minus met-Hb", and wherein said quality control material is exposed to atmospheric conditions.

Claim 70. (Original) The quality control material of claim 69, wherein said one or more substances are selected from the group consisting of amaranth, acid fuchsin, basic fuchsin, ponceau S, chromotrope 2R, phenol red, crystal ponceau, methyl orange, a Hb-based blood substitute, total Hb, oxy-Hb, carboxy-Hb, cyanmet-Hb, a polymer, and a protein.

Claim 71. (Currently Amended) A quality control material for use in a reagentless spectrophotometric apparatus, comprising, one or more substances that mimics an indicator of hemolysis, wherein said indicator of hemolysis is selected from the group consisting of total Hb, oxy-Hb and "total Hb minus met-Hb", and wherein said quality control material is exposed to atmospheric conditions.

Claim 72. (Original) The quality control material of claim 71, wherein said quality control material is not supplemented with bilirubin.

Claim 73. (Previously Presented) A quality control material for use in a reagentless spectrophotometric apparatus, comprising, one or more substances that mimics an indicator of hemolysis, wherein said one or more substances are selected from the group consisting of total Hb, oxy-Hb, "total Hb minus met-Hb," cyanmet-Hb, amaranth, acid fuchsin, basic fuchsin, ponceau S, chromotrope 2R, phenol red, crystal ponceau, methyl orange, a Hb-based blood substitute, carboxy-Hb, a polymer, and a protein, and wherein said quality control material is exposed to atmospheric conditions.

Claim 74. (Original) The quality control material of claim 73, wherein said quality control material is not supplemented with bilirubin.

Claim 75. (Currently Amended) A quality control material for use in a reagentless spectrophotometric apparatus, comprising, one or more substances that mimics an indicator of hemolysis, wherein said one or more substances are ~~selected~~ selected from the group consisting of total Hb, oxy-Hb, "total Hb minus met-Hb," cyanmet-Hb, acid fuchsin, basic fuchsin, ponceau S, chromotrope 2R, phenol red, crystal ponceau, methyl orange, a Hb-based blood substitute, oxy-Hb, carboxy-Hb, cyanmet-Hb, a polymer, and a protein.

Claim 76. (Original) The quality control material of claim 75, wherein said quality control material is not supplemented with bilirubin.

Claim 77. (Previously Presented) A quality control material for use in a reagentless spectrophotometric apparatus, comprising, one or more substances that mimic an indicator of hemolysis, wherein said indicator of hemolysis is selected from the group consisting of total Hb, oxy-Hb, and "total Hb minus met-Hb."

Claim 78. (Original) The quality control material of claim 77, wherein said quality control material is not supplemented with bilirubin.

Claim 79. (Original) A quality control material for use in a reagentless spectrophotometric apparatus, comprising, one or more substances that mimics one or more of, biliverdin, bilirubin, ~~methelene~~ methylene blue, met-Hb, a simulator of turbidity, a ~~perflurocarbon-like~~ perfluorocarbon-like blood substitute, a Hb-based blood substitute.

Claim 80. (Previously Presented) A quality control material for use in a reagentless spectrophotometric apparatus, comprising, one or more substances that mimics one or more of, an indicator of hemolysis, biliverdin, bilirubin, methelene blue, met-Hb, a simulator of turbidity, a perflurocarbon-like blood substitute, a Hb-based blood substitute wherein said indicator of hemolysis is selected from the group consisting of total Hb, oxy-Hb, and "total Hb minus met-Hb."

Claim 81. (Original) The quality control material of claim 80, wherein said quality control material is not supplemented with bilirubin

Claim 82. (Currently Amended) A quality control material for use in a reagentless spectrophotometric apparatus, comprising, one or more substances that mimics an indicator of hemolysis, wherein said substance is selected from the group ~~consisting~~ consisting of total-Hb and oxy-Hb, wherein said oxy-Hb accounts for about 95% of total Hb, or said total-Hb comprises about 95% oxy-Hb, and wherein said quality control material is exposed to atmospheric conditions.

Claim 83. (Original) The quality control material of claim 82, wherein said quality control material is not supplemented with bilirubin.

Claims 84-95. (Cancelled)

Claim 96. (Original) The quality control material of claim 70, wherein said one or more substances is not supplemented with bilirubin.

Claim 97. (Cancelled)